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Smallpox in Prince George County, Md., and jurisdiction of the State board of health in local health matters.

NOVEMBER 16, 1900.

SIR: Information has come to the Bureau relative to cases of smallpox at Hyattsville and College Park, Md., from which it appears that a man with smallpox, named Sam Long, colored, living about a quarter of a mile beyond the Agricultural College station, was not isolated and was at work alongside the public road, and that some of the occupants of the same house with Sam Long have not been vaccinated. The acting health officer of Washington has called my attention to the matter, and I mention it to you, trusting that you can correct it with the local authorities.

For my information will you kindly tell me what jurisdiction or power you have in a local matter of this kind in your State?

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.

Dr. JOHN S. FULTON,
Secretary State Board of Health, Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE, MD., November 17, 1900.

SIR: Replying to yours of 16th have to say the known 6 cases of smallpox in Prince George County are now really isolated, and that no one of the number has been seen outside his house since Monday, the 12th.

How thorough the vaccination is I do not know. Have to-day written the local officer on the subject.

In Maryland the State board of health can enter a local sanitary jurisdiction and proceed as if there were no local board in case the local authorities are so incompetent as to imperil the State. This would, you see, be an extreme case. We have done this but once. We have used our power of reporting to excellent effect in the present instance.

I inclose you a copy of our recent communications to the local board, which has set them seriously to work, the daily press having made news of it.

Respectfully,

JOHN S. FULTON,
Secretary State Board of Health.

UPPER MARLBORO, MD., November 17, 1900.

SIR: I have just received a letter from Dr. John S. Fulton, secretary of the State board of health, asking if the inmates of the Long household had been vaccinated. In reply, I beg to state that there has been a general vaccination, I am credibly informed, of all at Lakeland and College Park. All of the Long family have had the disease, I am informed, except 1, but I am not able to say whether that one has been vaccinated. It is evident to my mind that there is some one who is giving you an exaggerated statement of the condition of affairs in and around Lakeland and College Park. I have been all over that section twice within the last ten days, and I see no reason for any alarm, either to those living in that section or to the citizens of the District. This trouble was started last summer by a negro preacher coming from Washington to Lakeland with the smallpox. We had some cases of it at Lakeland in August, and were under the impression that we had got rid of it until a case appeared at or near College Park October 5.

It is now confined entirely to 3 houses, and these houses are at least 200 yards from the public road and a considerable distance from other

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houses. I have no desire to conceal anything from you, nor do I think it right that a false impression should be given and the health board of our county placed in a false position.

Respectfully,

L. A. GRIFFITH,
Health Officer of Prince George County.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 19, 1900.

Postmaster Seabrook telephones smallpox 1½ miles from Seabrook, toward College Station; wife of colored man named Parker, who works section gang on railroad at Lanham Station, traced to College Park. Will you take it up?

WYMAN.

Dr. FULTON,
Secretary State Board of Health, Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE, MD., November 19, 1900.

SIR: I have your wire concerning the case of woman Parker at Seabrook. A colored woman named Simmons was reported sick of smallpox on the 15th instant by the health officer of Prince George County, who has, I believe, taken charge of the case. Have wired the information concerning Parker to Dr. Griffith.

Respectfully,

JOHN S. FULTON,
Secretary.

Smallpox at Hyattsville, College Park, and Lakeland, Md.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D. C., November 14, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of a report from Dr. R. L. Lynch, an inspector of this Department, who visited yesterday, under my direction, Hyattsville, College Park, and Lakeland, Md., for the purpose of obtaining information that I regarded as of value for us to have relative to the cases of variola in those localities, especially as to the quarantine of parties who have been exposed to the disease. This semiofficial investigation was made, I will add, mainly for the purpose of enabling this Department to intelligently determine whether the existing conditions were such as to warrant this office in suggesting to the school authorities the advisability of prohibiting, temporarily, teachers and pupils from that locality attending our schools.

Respectfully,

H. C. MCLEAN,
Acting Health Officer.

[Inclosure.]

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D. C., November 14, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to present the following special report relative to the investigation of alleged cases of variola at Hyattsville, College, and Lakeland, Md., made on 13th instant:

My first call was at the Maryland Agricultural College, where I saw the president of the college, who stated that there was a family named Long living near, who were said to have the disease. He could not give me the exact location, so referred me to Dr. Eversfield, physician to the college. I called on the Doctor, but did not see him, as he was out at the time.

I was informed that Dr. Lee, of Berwyn, had charge of all the variola cases, so I went to Berwyn. I saw his wife, who told me that the Doctor was in Washington.

I next went to Hyattsville, where I was successful in finding Dr. Richardson, who